



# HI-Q

## THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC, Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

### THE PREZ SAYS

It is that time again when we must examine our paid-up membership list and thankfully it happens only once a year. The reason that it must be closely scrutinized is because it is from the dues of our members that we get the only money to operate the club for the coming year. This money must then be budgeted. In a dream world, we would know at the end of September the number of members and then we would know how much money we had. It could then be budgeted wisely, pay our fixed costs and have some money left over for the unexpected costs that could strike without warning or for some "luxury" item from our "wouldn't it be nice to have or do list" and life would be beautiful. The real world is a different story. At this point in October, the Executive does not know how many members we will have in the coming year. Some long-term members are not on the paid-up membership list. There are local people who use the repeaters who are also not listed. (YES, it is an open repeater, but someone must pay the costs). This gives extra planning problems to the Executive. The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club has a few fixed costs that must be paid and these costs are for the operating aspects of the repeaters. They are the autopatches and the insurance costs for the repeaters plus a small amount for maintenance of the repeaters. These costs are about 80-90 percent of our entire budget and very little money is left. The Executive can only plan with the current paid-up membership in mind and hope that the fixed costs are covered. At the moment, all costs are being carried by the current paid-up members. We need help from all the people who use the repeaters. In the December issue of HI-Q, the paid-up membership list for the club will be published. Thank you in advance for helping to share the load. Amateur radio loves you! Ian Mellis, VA3RIM

### A STORM TO REMEMBER

On the afternoon of July 4th, 1999 a large and powerful area of storms ripped across portions of Northwestern Ontario. The hardest hit area was Quetico National Park east to the City of Thunder Bay. The storms were preceded by a 'green sky' which was Issue 694 immediately recognized as a 'severe weather signature' by CANWARN spotters.

The storms left incredible damage in their wake as winds in excess of 120 km/h literally blew down thousands of trees, knocked down power lines and produced local flooding. A complex of thunderstorms of this nature has a unique name. It is called a 'derecho' (day-ray-cho) and is used to describe a long-lived, damaging thunderstorm wind event. The term conveniently differentiated severe straight-line winds from tornadoes (Derecho is the Spanish word for 'straight ahead', while Tornado comes from the Spanish word for 'turn'). It is possible that these storms did produce tornadoes however most of the damage was produced by severe straight-line winds. A storm of this magnitude does not happen often. However seeing that the most frequent derechos occur in the Upper Midwest (which includes Minnesota) it should be no surprise that these powerful storms will once in a while work its way across the border and into Northwestern Ontario. Our thanks go out to the LARC CANWARN operators for their assistance with this whim of Mother Nature.

*Wayne Whittaker, Environment Canada*

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**1998/1999 LARC****Founding President**

P. J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW

LARC maintains the Club call VE3FW  
to honour the memory of our first  
President Mr. Pat O'Shea.

**Senate**

Bill Roberts VE3ARN  
Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
Ray Greer VE3CH  
Bill Klemacki VE3AJ  
Dave Kimpton, VE3AVS  
Ray Forslund, VE3EDZ

**Executive Board**

President:	Ian Mellis	VA3RIM	577-1628
Vice Pres:	Ed Baumann	VE3SNW	622-1216
Secretary:	Norm Bell	VE3XRC	577-9316
Treasurer:	Jan Sokoloski	VA3JRS	344-3222
Directors:	Andy Malcolm	VE3INI	345-1858
	Eric Todd	VE3XET	626-9720
	Bob Hanson	VE3RVA	767-6924
	Pat Pugh	VA3PP	345-8562
Past Pres:	Terry Stewardson	VE3TKA	577-9439

**Appointments**

Mem. Sec.:	John Sacek	VA3JMS	767-3631
Hi-Q Editor:	Skip Wright	VE3BBS	767-5224
Emergency Coordinator:	Randy Gottfred,	VA3GOT	939-2310

**Club Repeaters**

VE3YQT 147.060 - OFFSET  
VE3TBR 146.820 - OFFSET

**Next Meeting****November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999**

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm every second Thursday of each  
month at Confederation College in room 207B in the  
McIntyre Building.

### Minutes of a Meeting of the LARC held in Room 207B at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on 14 October 1999

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the Balance as of September 30, 1999 President VA3RIM, Ian Mellis with 36 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started with a roundtable of Motion: moved by VA3JRS and seconded by VA3XRM, those in attendance introducing themselves. One of the Rod McLeod that the treasurer's report be accepted. guests, HB9XCK from Switzerland was asked to say a few

words.

Guest Speaker: VE3AJ, Bil I Klemacki introduced the evening's guest speaker, Mr. Reid Carter, President and General Manager of CRC Communications. Reid gave a brief history of how CRC Communications was formed. CRC Communications serves an area from White River to the Manitoba border. They presently have 64 VHF community repeaters as well as operating a private micro wave system. Some of their repeaters are located in areas not serviced by hydro and utilize solar power, wind power and propane. CRC Communications is a large Motorola dealer, one of the top 10 dealers in Canada in volume sales. The company spends approximately \$53,000.00 annually on license fees payable to Industry Canada. Reid showed off four pages of frequencies assigned to CRC Communications. He also said that they are presently expanding their business from 5,500 square feet to 10,000 square feet. Once their renovations are complete, they will be having an open house to which members of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club will be invited. Following Reid's presentation, a question and answer period followed. VA3RIM, Ian Mellis thanked Reid for his presentation.

**Minutes of the Meeting of September 9, 1999**

The minutes of the meeting held September 9, 1999 were published in the October edition of 'HI-Q' and distributed to all members.

**Motion:** moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried**

**Correspondence:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as of August 31, 1999 \$2,171.82

Income:

Membership Dues	1,615.00
Donations	65.00
Vest	25.00
50/50 Draw	15.0
	1,720.00

Expenses:

Telephone	74.29
Insurance	625.32
Bank Svc Charge	.60
	\$700.21

Balance as of September 30, 1999 \$3,191.61

**Motion:** moved VA3JRS, Jan and seconded by VA3XRM, Rod that the Treasurers report be accepted. **Carried**

**Old Business:**

**Telephone Rates:** VA3RIM, Ian Mellis brought the members up to date on our attempt to lower our telephone costs. Thunder Bay Telephone has replied to a letter sent on our behalf by Mayor Ken Boshcoff which stated that the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club does not qualify for residential rates under the present rules as set out by the CRTC. Ian then approached the office of MP Stan Dromisky for help. His staff contacted the CRTC directly and we got the same answer back, so it is not the fault of Thunder Bay Telephone that we are paying commercial rates. VE3INI, Andy Malcolm is working on an idea to eliminate one telephone line by sharing one line with both repeaters with the default set to VE3YQT. On the air, you will not notice any difference. The 'box' that Andy is working on still has to be tested. To relocate the phone patch to a private residence will require a fair amount of linking.

**Club Banner:** has been put on hold for the time being. The motion to purchase a new banner still stands, but will not be acted upon until such time as funds become available.

**Reports:**

**Equipment:** VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson reported that the new antenna for VE3YQT has not yet arrived due to a manufacturing problem at Sinclair. He has finished the link radios for the Upsala repeater.

**Public Service:** VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki reported that there were no public service events during October. The next scheduled event is the OPP Christmas parade on Saturday 20 November 1999.

**Ham Classes:** are scheduled to start in January, 2000. For further information contact VE3SNW, Ed Baumann.

**ARES:** VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred stated that photo identification cards will be going ahead. He is arranging a schedule with Thunder Bay Regional Hospital to have the pictures taken over a two day period at the Port Arthur General Hospital. On Wednesday 27 October 1999, the city of Thunder Bay will be holding a simulated emergency exercise that may require the participation of amateur radio operators. Two meetings have been held with the OPP in regards to providing backup communications over the January 1st, 2000 period. We may require some volunteers to man the station which will be both HF and VHF. Those volunteering for the OPP will be required to undergo a security check. Environment Canada is also in the process of setting up an amateur radio station in the weather office which will require volunteers.

**CANWARN:** VA3JMS, John Sacek announced that the severe weather season is over. CANWARN will be holding another training session in the spring, probably on a Sunday. John will be doing a monthly submission for "HI-Q" to keep everybody's interest up.

**"HI-Q":** VE3BBS Skip Wright stated that he didn't know whether to thank or strangle VE3FLB Rob Van Wyck for conning him into being the editor for HI-Q. Skip wanted to thank all the contributing editors for the October issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1999-2000 PROPOSED BUDGET:** presented by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski.

**OPERATING**

Income Categories...	Proposed	98-99	97-98
50150 Draw	150.00	146.50	79.50
Memberships	2900.00	2834.84	3005.00
Student Fees	200.00	285.00	135.00
Donations	200.00	755.00	339.70
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>3650.00</b>	<b>5464.09</b>	<b>3559.20</b>
Administration	200.00	585.57	50.00
Bank Svc Charges	25.00	22.20	5.40
Classes	150.00	136.60	90.00
HI-Q	300.00	747.66	555.23
Insurance	725.00	625.32	733.32
Telephone	1000.00	1359.34	793.62
Maintenance	600.00	985.56	100.00
Licence Fees	96.00	96.00	
Donations	150.00	198.30	
ARES	200.00		
Miscellaneous	200.00	413.79	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3646.33</b>	<b>5170.34</b>	<b>2327.57</b>
<b>Differences</b>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>293.75</b>	<b>1231.63</b>

Note: Miscellaneous expenses include such things as filed day, advertising, vests, call books etc.

**Capital Expenditures:**

Banners	300.00
Repeaters	2500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2800.00</b>

Moved by VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck and seconded by VE3TKA that the proposed budget as presented . be accepted.

**Carried**

Appointment of Auditors: as stated in our By-Laws, two auditors are required to audit the financial records of the Club

and report on same at the Annual Dinner in February. VA3PP, Pat Pugh and VE3MJN, Marion Nawrocki volunteered for the job.

November Meeting: will deal with the use of multi-meters.

Bring yours along and learn how to use it properly.

Christmas (December) Meeting: has been booked at Boston Pizza on Arthur Street. We are still looking for some entertainment.

50150 Draw: was won by VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck.

Special Draw: winner of a Swiss army knife donated by CRC Communications was won by VE3MJN, Marion Nawrocki.

Adjournment: moved by VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson that the meeting be adjourned.

VE3SNR Montreal River

We have learned from the Algoma Amateur that a new repeater is up and operating along the North Shore. Located at Montreal River it is 145.210 Mhz with a negative offset. It is sponsored by the Algoma Amateur Radio Club in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Good work guys, nice to have another voice along Highway 17.

### LISTENING INN

We applied for and received our change in call signs. So here we are with another column. Do you sometimes yearn to get someone else's views on international news? Ever notice that the news supplied by the half-dozen news agencies seems to be all the same? So spin the dial on the HF rig once in a while and listen to what others are saying ... for example..

**RADIO NEW ZEALAND** 1950-0705Z 17675 kHz

**RADIO AUSTRALIA** 2100-0200Z 21740 kHz  
0200-1100Z 15515 kHz 1100-1500Z 9580 and 11650 kHz

**RADIO NEDERLAND** 0000-0130Z, 6165 and 9845 kHz  
0430-0530Z 6165 and 9590 kHz

**RADIO QUITO, ECUADOR** 0000-0700Z 9745 and 12015 kHz  
0700-0900Z 11730 kHz 0900-1600Z 11755 kHz  
1900-2200Z 17660 kHz

**BBC (GREAT BRITAIN)** 24 Hour Broadcasting  
0705-1105Z 9700 kHz 0200Z 6178.5, 6185, 6195, 12095 kHz 1400Z 9515 kHz 1530Z 15220 and 17840 kHz 1900Z 17885 kHz

Most if not all of these broadcasts carry news in English on the hour. Some have interesting and insightful commentaries on the days news following the news itself. For now, 73 de **VA3SNOOPY**

### SWAP 'N' SHOP

**YAESU 757 HF All Mode Transceiver.** comes with DC Power Supply, mobile mounting bracket and cables, mobile mike, also desk mike, model SM-6. Built in keyer. Unit comes with paddle. Includes all amateur bands and full receive 300 kHz to 30 MHz. VE3AVS (Dave) 344-8949 or dkimpton@tbaytel.net

**MFJ-949E HF Versal Tuner 11.** See October HI-Q for details. \$175. VA3DPB (Don) 473-5482 or dpb36@hotmail.com

**YAESU FT416 2 Meter Hand Held.** Super Value. See October HI-Q for details. Lots of extras \$300. VA3IOU (Alan) 767-7185 or 628-5866.

**YAESU FT530 Dual Band Hand Held.** Great deal for a dual bander H/H. See October HI-Q for details. \$350. VE3BBS (Skip) 767-5224.

**ASTON RS50A 50 Amp Power Supply.** See October HI-Q for further details or call Bill VE4UX 683-3190, e-mail ve4ux@tbaytel.net

**TELEX T2x (Taitwister)** Rotator. \$600.00 OBO. See October HI-Q for detail. Call Tim, VE3NWO 623-2488 or e-mail monty@tbaytel.net

**Kenwood 440 SAT HF Transceiver.** See October HI-Q for details. Excellent HF Base Station. Also Pyramid 30A Power supply. Open to offers. Call Tim VE3NWO 6832488 or e-mail at monty@tbaytel.net

**Yaesu Desk Mike.** Model MDIC8. 8 Pin Mic. PTT/Hold buttons. Up/Down controls. Asking \$200. VA3WRL (Wayne) wletang@tbaytel.net or phone 344-8847

### PUBLIC SERVICE

October has been a quiet month as far as any Public Service events were concerned. The only exception will have been an emergency callout test which is scheduled to take place on the 27th. It is hoped that a successful call out will have been achieved and that all participants were adequately prepared for the event, you know, charged batteries, clipboards, pens, message forms and anything else that might come in handy. Perhaps there will be some input from the co ordinators after the event has taken place. Ed Baumann tells me that there are a few more new amateurs to be added to our lists, apparently two who recently passed their exam will not be staying around Thunder Bay, but are headed for southern climes and some serious sailing for an extended period. November is almost here, as I write this, and that means Santa Claus parade is due up next. The event takes place on 20th of November, with a parade start time of 10 AM. That will mean an early start to co ordinate the gathering of the floats and participants at the Community Auditorium parking lot. Here is hoping we get a

pleasant day for the parade, as we have a bit of every kind of weather over the last several years. Time to get the winter duds out and ready for the coming season. I hear skis are already being polished and waxed, is it just wishful thinking or do they know something we don't? See you at the meeting on the 11th, which is by the way Remembrance Day. Lest we Forget! 73 de VE3ZG Mike Nawrocki

## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Greetings one and all. In the last month, there has been two meetings with the OPP to set up an HF station at Algoma Street HQ. We will be installing HF antennas as well as VHF/UHF antennas at that site shortly. As requested at the club meeting, please get in touch with me and/or Norm VE3XRC, so we can get a list of volunteers for the New Years Eve communications schedule. This is very important, in order to set up ahead of time in case something comes up and you have to be rescheduled. Try your best, but remember, "It's only a hobby!" The photo ID's will be started on October 29th, 1999. The pictures will be taken at the McKellar site, Human Resources Department from 1330 to 1500. I am trying to accomodate everyone for picutres and will have a second sitting in the very near future. The AEC's will be contacting you with the information, please be prompt with your answers so we can get this done ASAP.

Environment Canada has purchased an HF and VHF transceiver to set up at their office and there will be more information on that as we get it. As winter approaches, I would like to remind everyone to have your personal emergency radio kit and supplies ready to go at all times. It is probably a good idea to do it now because you just never know when trouble is going to raise its ugly head.

As the last club meeting, I handed out the updated ARES callout. If you didn't get one, please let me know. I have hard copies to hand out. You need to get your copy soon ' because we are going to be conducting a test of our callout and we don't need any weak links as we prepare for Y2K or for that matter any natural disaster. And finally, as winter get into full swing, keep an ear to the weather forecasts and scanner channels for driving conditions and weather information that can be passed on to amateurs travelling east and west of Thunder Bay. Let's make it safe for all that travel in our area. Tks es bst 73. Randy Gottfred, VA3GOT Emergency Co-Ordinator

Cold Enough to Freeze the Balls off a Brass Monkey Don't get excited. There is absolutely nothing raunchy about this

expression. In the days of sail a number of things around a ship were known as monkies: The little cask used for carrying grog into the mess was called a monkey. So was the small, single-masted sailboat that was used for trading along the coast in the 16th century. A monkey-pump was the name give to the straw or quill that was stuck through a tiny hole in a wine cask by clever sailors, who then sucked out the contents. A powder monkey was a thin, agile boy who ran through the narrow passageways of a ship during battles carrying the highly volatile gunpowder from the hold to the cannons above. A monkey rail was a supplementary railing that ran inside the main rail on the quarterdeck. Monkey was also the name given to a pyramid-shaped, iron structure set near the cannons and used for keeping the cannon balls in place. On spiffier ships the monkey was made of brass. It added a bit of class to the ship and was kept highly polished. There was only one problem with a brass monkey: in cold weather the brass did not contract as much as the iron cannon balls. As the balls shrunk, they became loose, and when the ship pitched, they rolled off the monkey. Naturally then, when it got particularly cold at sea, it was cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. This is true. I swear it. From Scuttlebutt.. and other Expressions of Nautical Origin, Teri Degler, Henry Holt & Company, NY

## GROUNDING FOR LIGHTNING PROTECTION

A typical lightning strike is assumed to be a 20,000 amp surge. Since lightning has a large portion of its energy in the LF range, it will behave like a RF signal. That means that energy will only be conducted on the outside of the conductor (skin effect) and so the inductance of the ground system is very important. Proper grounding practice for electrical wiring has very little to do with RF grounding. The purpose of an electrical ground is to be at a safe potential at 60 Hz, it needs to have a low enough impedance (a fraction of an ohm) that in case of a short circuit a fuse or breaker will blow. At RF such low impedeances are essentially impossible: even a few centimeters of thick wire is likely to exhibit an inductive impedance in the ohm range at 10 Mhz. All of the coax shields should be grounded (using a grounding kit) at the top of the tower and at the base of the tower. If the coax lines are not grounded as they leave the tower or they are completely isolated from the tower, more energy could traverse the coax toward your equipment that is conducted to the ground system by the tower. If a wood or fiberglass pole must be used in

place of a steel tower, the first step is to provide an alternate conductive path down the pole to earth. The same school of thought holds true if the antenna or tower is mounted on a roof, the inductance inherent in the conductors to the ground system will be very significant. So significant, that voltages in the order of several hundred thousands volts will be present. To reduce the inductance in the ground conductors, increase the surface area of the conductor (wide copper strap is best) as well as the number of conductors. Lightning has a large magnetic field associated with its typical 20,000 ampere pulse. When this large current passes down the tower the magnetic field which will radiate from the tower, will couple to all nearby conductive materials. A ground mounted vertical antenna is very similar to a ground mounted tower. Both have

a substantial and low impedance connection to the ground system. Even though inductive properties of the coax cable appear to be beneficial, and some extra inductance can be created by adding a few turns to the coax, don't do it. The added turns can also act like an air wound transformer that can couple more energy into the line. This is just the opposite

of the desired effect. Instead, if the coax lines leaving the tower remain at right angles to the tower (and therefore to the magnetic field surrounding the tower) we will not capture any additional energy. Placement of the tower with respect to the equipment deserves significant consideration to minimize the energy entering the shack. Since it is closest to ground and has the lowest inductance connection the grounding system, the basement is the best location for the ham shack. The first floor is the next best. If the tower is close to the building, the recommended grounding strap, running down the outside wall, may inductively couple some energy from the tower. This is also true for coax and rotor lines. The longer this parallel run, the more energy will be coupled. Several companies including Polyphaser recommend protecting these lines at the tower base then running them in EMT (electrical metal tubing) steel conduit grounded only at the tower base point. The EMT will act as a Faraday shield from the tower's magnetic fields and will minimize the amount of induced energy. Since strike energy is a high frequency pulse, a low inductance path to ground becomes a critical factor. Route all ground straps and grounding conductors so they have a gentle bending radius. Bends sharper than an 8 inch radius will add unwanted inductance to the desired ground path. Copper strapping is preferred over large diameter wire as an inter-connecting material. Copper strap has a large surface area and low inductance. With a 1.5 inch or wider flat strap both surfaces will conduct the surge. The same conductivity would be impossible to achieve with a reasonably sized wire. In the ground the sharp edges allow for a high E field concentration forcing more charge into the soil. 10 foot copper clad steel

ground rods are commonly used and should be from 6 to 10 feet apart to be effective. Additional bare copper radials can be attached to the ground system to further reduce overall system inductance. Poor conductivity can be enhanced by doping the soil with salt. Copper should never touch galvanized material directly without proper joint protection. Water shedding from the copper contact ions that will wash away the galvanized (zinc) tower covering. Stainless steel can be used as a buffer material. However, stainless steel is not a very good conductor. Consider also that if you disconnect the coax to protect the equipment from lightning and just place it on the floor it might make things worse since arcing involves ignition temperature plasmas inside your house. True, the radio may still work, if it survives the house fire. This article represents a collection of material from many sources including Tower Talk reflector sites, and PolyPhaser. VE3INI, Andy Malcolm Andy is a member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and is employed by the Canadian Coast Guard as a Radio Tech in Thunder Bay. His e-mail address is amalcolm@oln.com

## MORSE CODE, THE CURSE OF THE NOVICE

Quite a number of people that successfully completed the basic amateur radio license requirements are stalled or in limbo because of MORSE CODE. I am not going to be one of those to say that it is easy to learn, or that it is a must or because you are a ham radio operator, you should know THE CODE, but not advancing to the next logical step in the quest for your full 'ticket' seems somehow lacking. While 6M, 2M and 70 cm can be a challenge and the rewards are many, you have no idea what HF can bring. Most of you know that already, longer distances, not just local or that rare opening on 6 or 2, but genuine DX, across the 'pond' to Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand. Trans Canada Nets, (if that's your thing). Phone patching, and handling traffic are just a few of rewarding side lines of HF. Now with the new 5WPM on 10 meters, this is your chance to get on one of the best DX bands. 10M is at its peak right now, those of you that have listened in or are working that band segment just below 10M, know that you can literally work the world with low power. You don't need big rigs and amplifiers. 10M monoband rigs are inexpensive and readily available. There are many and varied computer programmes available that will teach or at least assist you in learning the code, but the best way is to get involved with a group that are all in the 'same boat' so to speak. While there is still a fair amount of self study involved, the 'group' method will give you a chance to voice your thoughts and/or other explanations with regard to the code. Norm, VE3XRC over the years had donated of his time and

shack to teach the code to many of the presently licensed advanced hams in the LARC. He is prepared to do it again, if there is enough interest in the project. If you want to get involved, give Norm a call, he is listed in the club executive on page 2 of HI-Q.

**Rob, VE3FLB** has also forwarded an article for people who are learning or a brushing up on their skills may find the following of some value. It has long be recognized that people who succeed with code are able to hear the music of the characters. Once this is accomplished they may find themselves eventually hearing the music of whole words as well!! Impossible you say, next Field Day, sit down and watch Bill AJ, or Stephen, DP or Pat PD work CW on 20 meters. It will blow you away. The list below may be used in your CW computer programs to develop this ability. Since educational psychologists have reduced the English language into 250 most commonly used words, then why not make use of them to supplement our special ham words and numbers? One Quarter of the words used in English today is made up of only 12 words. They are: a I it the and in of to he is that was. The next 88 words along with the 12 above make up 50 percent of the words used in our language today. all had said as have so at be him they but his we are not with for on one you about call first like must over there what an came from little my no right this where back can get go look new see two been come has made now she when which before could her here make off only some up want who will big did do if into me more or our their them well your by down just much other out then went were old. There is not one word in the above list with more than 5 letters. Amazing. If you want to get the other 150 words, drop Rob an e-mail rvanwyck(&tbaytel. net. If you really want to get into cipher code or coded groups Rob has a number of lines that would make memorization almost impossible but would hone in on the individual letter sounds which is suitable for low speed code. Listed below is a small sample. Try them in your computer programmes. Keep in mind each line contains 26 letters, 10 digits and 3 punctuation marks. They are great for sending practice. u8ht7 nq.be cs9j 4p6ok ?alix g5vr3 fyzmI 2dow Geesh never mind code practice, try typing the above.. zjsOf y8a,r i6l4q ucwdt 2ghop b3rk? x,v17 e9nm d9i4h un5c. t8sol xg7,1 bqzpO f3k6v rwm2j e?ay w9pJ7 ?4b,v xelo6 nr.dc 2uy5k f3lga tqmOi fzh8 e2dZX rqmlO s5,13 fxck4 n6tub ov?ij 8p7gw ah9 nza0l y5gu9 kfet8 x4?rw 6d I h, pqnis jv.bc 7eto The military, for years has used coded groups for teaching the fine art of receiving code. Try and tested. It works! Good luck and hopefully see you on 10M or 80/160 with your 5wpm. Of course, don't stop there, go for 12 and get your full ticket. Very best of 73 Skip VE3BBS

Man to Man: " I've given up trying to figure what makes my wife tick. I'm content just to avoid getting her wound up "

## HAM CLASSES

I recently ran into Ed, VE3SNW at Intercity Mall the other day. Ed instructs the ham classes for the Lakehead Amateur

Radio Club. He indicated that classes would be starting in January, 2000. They are slated for Room 207B, the same room as the monthly club meetings. A firm date has not been set for classes to start, but we will have full listing in December issue of HI-Q. So if you know a friend, the XYL or YL or harmonic wishing to get his/her license contact Ed at 622-1216. Cost of the classes are \$60. which includes automatic membership until 30 September 2000 when you get your license and full use of the LARC sponsored repeaters. You will also receive HI-Q, the bulletin of the LARC. Cost of the study book varies, depending where purchased but I believe they run in the neighborhood of 37.00. I know two of the Radio Shack stores (Intercity and County Fair) have them in stock. Buy one, share it with a friend. If you want to leave footprints in the sands of time, don't drag your feet. Arnot L. Sheppard in Woman's World

## USEFUL METRIC CONVERSIONS

This item appeared in the August 1999 edition of "Groundwave", the newsletter of the Southwestern Virginia Wireless Association, Bill Svec WA4BKW Editor and was taken from the ARNS bulletin October 1999. Americans and for that matter quite a few of us Canadians have problems with the metric system. In an attempt to clarify the conversion process here are some conversions which may help you.

1 million microphones = I megaphone  
 1 million bicycles = 2 megacycles  
 1/2 lavatory = I demijohn  
 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds  
 1 millionth of a fish = I microfiche  
 10 rations = I decoration  
 100 rations = 1 C-ration

## I KERCHUNK, THEREFORE I AM

Yet another article from the ARNS Bulletin. This one appeared in the April 1999 issue of the "Cedar Mountain Rachew" the newsletter of the Cedar Mountain ARC, Melba Epperle-WA7UPK, Editor.

KERCHUNK: Either a verb or a noun, but usually a verb. From the German, "kerchunken"; to kerchunk a repeater. "I kerchunk, you kerchunk, he/she/it kerchunks. " Whenever I kerchunk, I always identify. This not only keeps many from being "rubbed the wrong way", but also has resulted in many a nice QSO. A good kerchunk tells you many things: 1) Your transmitter is working. 2) Your receiver is working. 3) Your antenna is working. 4) The repeater is there. 5) The repeater receiver is working. 6) The repeater transmitter is working. 7) The repeater antenna(s) is (are) working. 8) The call of the repeater. Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk. But it seems my kerchunk is always a higher quality than his kerchunk. "I love the sound of good kerchunk in the morning." There is a local chapter of KA (Kerchunkers Anonymous) soon to form in this area. MFJ will soon market a kerchunk detector which will print out each month the date, time, and call for each and every kerchunk. It will result in Industry Canada charging 25 cents per kerchunk., it will be added to your income tax. The new forms are being printed even a I type. Parliament will establish national Kerchunk Day next year. On this day only kerchunking will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaging in a conversation will lose his kerchunking privileges for a period not to exceed 30 days. Recently, kerchunkers have been heard on 20M. Is this a trend? When I operate 6M, I sometimes kerchunk my neighbors TV. A new bumper sticker is being made available which will read "Have you kerchunked your repeater today?"

included some of the better ones in this issue. ARNS the Amateur Radio News Service is an excellent source for material. We did two articles in this issue, one for CANWARN and the other on ARES. These two worthwhile programmes are sponsored by the LARC and if you want to get involved, contact either John Sacek or Randy Gottfred. Their phone numbers are shown on Page 2 of each issue of HI-Q under appointments. I would like to thank Andy Malcolm for his contribution to HI-Q this month. Most informative. Also the regulars, Norm with minutes, Ian with Prez Says, Randy with ARES and John with CANWARN, Mike with Public Service. In the next issue we will printing the paid up members list. It is hoped we can get it right the first time, but without the proper information it is very difficult. 99.9% of the info is procured from the sheet you filled out when you paid your 99-2000 membership dues. If for any reason you feel that your address is incorrect, then please by all means let me know. This info sheet also goes to Norm for address lists for Public Service and ARES as well as CANWARN liability insurance. With the home computer down, it is best to e-mail me at [tsradioetbaytel.net](mailto:tsradioetbaytel.net) to be assured of it getting to me. And the last thing that can possibly go wrong has! NO SPELL CHECKERW So does E&OE cover it???

*It's time to diet and exercise when you accept the fact that you can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time-but not while wearing a bathing suit. Gene Perret in McCall's*

## EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Well another issue put to bed. With all the troubles, downed computers, power outages, loss of programs and the HI-Q template, and trying to squeeze the Compilation of HIQ in between splitting and piling the winter wood supply and getting ready for ole man winter, it has indeed been another memorable experience. One nice thing about being the editor of HI-Q is that you get to see quite a number of newsletters from the many and varied clubs around North America. Most of them allow me to reprint their articles, the only remuneration being that the source is acknowledged. I have